

EXECUTIVE ORDER 96-4

**ARIZONA TASK FORCE FOR THE WESTERN
VIRTUAL UNIVERSITY**

Arizona Commission for Postsecondary Education

WHEREAS, it is advantageous to the State and to all its postsecondary education sectors to provide postsecondary education courses and award credentials to all Arizona citizens, who may benefit from a postsecondary education, and

WHEREAS, Arizona's citizens know that without advanced postsecondary education and training, they will not be able to compete successfully in a global economy and contribute to the economic growth of their State; and

WHEREAS, the development of new distance education technologies demonstrate clearly that distance education extends postsecondary participation to students unable to participate in classroom education, reduces the time and volume of classroom activity needed to obtain a credential, and reduces student unit costs; and

Arizona Administrative Register
Governor's Executive Orders/Proclamations

WHEREAS, throughout history, postsecondary education and society have created new institutional types to meet the needs of society and are on the threshold of creating a new institutional type designed to meet the nations' need to educate its citizens in innovative ways as we enter the Information Age; and

WHEREAS, the Western Governor's Association, having assessed the availability and capabilities of advanced technology-based teaching and learning, is currently developing a design plan for a western virtual university to serve the region; and

WHEREAS, the State's capacity to respond to the challenges of projected workforce needs, postsecondary enrollment growths, and limited resources, through existing postsecondary institutions is constrained; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the State, its postsecondary institutions, and its citizens to examine immediately the feasibility to aligning with the proposed western virtual university prior to the completion of the western virtual university design plan; and

WHEREAS, the Arizona Commission for Postsecondary Education is the State statutory agency charged with considering the postsecondary needs of unserved and underserved individuals in this State pursuant to A.R.S. § 15-1851 and is composed of representatives from all Arizona secondary and postsecondary education sectors.

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in me as Governor and Chief Executive Officer of the State of Arizona, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** as follows:

1. There is created the **Arizona Task Force for the Western Virtual University** composed of representatives from the following:
 - a. Arizona's public universities;
 - b. Arizona's public community colleges;
 - c. Arizona's private postsecondary institutions;
 - d. Arizona's private sector; and
 - e. Arizona's legislature.
 - f. Arizona's executive branch
2. The Arizona Commission for Postsecondary Education shall have the following responsibilities:
 - a. Ensure that the Task Force carries out the following responsibilities under its charge:
 - (i) Considers the relation between the proposed activities of the western virtual university initiative and the current and proposed activities of Arizona's postsecondary institutions;
 - (ii) Considers the postsecondary education needs of unserved and underserved individuals within the

State, including individuals beyond the traditional college age, as well as Arizona employers, and how those needs can be met by the western virtual university;

- (iii) Considers State and national policies designed to enhance the growth of distance education technology and programs their effects on enrollments within all State postsecondary sectors; and
- (iv) Considers the resources of institutions, organizations, or agencies (both public and private) within the State and among the Western virtual university entities needed to provide additional postsecondary educational opportunities through the Virtual University; and
- (v) Recommends to the Commission and to the State how the State should effectively participate in the proposed western virtual university, addressing such key issues as needs, curricular models, markets, costs, timetables, joint institutional capacity, evaluation/quality control, technology infrastructure/alternative delivery mechanisms, partners, and administration.

3. The Task Force shall submit an interim report to the Commission and to the State by June 1, 1996 and shall submit a final report to the Commission and to the State no later than April 1, 1997.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Arizona.

Fife Symington
Governor

DONE at the Capitol in Phoenix this tenth day of April in the year of Our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety-six and of the Independence of the United States of America the Two Hundred and Twentieth.

ATTEST:

Jane Dee Hull
Secretary of State